

HERE ARE EXAMPLES OF WHEN AND WHY YOU SHOULD CALL YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT ABOUT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

To report a crime: Dispatch  
Or Non-Emergencies, call  
**293-7000**  
For an emergency, dial  
**9-1-1**

Before dialing 911 you must determine if a real emergency has occurred or is imminent and needs response by the police, fire department or paramedics right now.

You will be asked:

- The location of the emergency. Be specific: “Northeast corner of Main and A”, not “somewhere on Main.”
- Type of emergency: A robbery in progress, a house fire, an unconscious person, a fist fight.
- Weapons involved: Guns, knives, bottles sticks, even a car. Weapons may be simulated.
- Who’s involved: Do you know them? How many? Give descriptions of each.
- Any obstacles that might hinder emergency units from responding: bars on a house, vicious dog, chemical spill, etc.
- Facts only, please: Don’t exaggerate; be factual and honest. Offer only what you are sure of. If you are unsure or don’t know, tell that to the operator.

Suspicious Vehicles

- **Certain moving vehicles**, especially if slow moving and without lights, or if the course followed appears aimless or repetitive. This is suspicious in any location, but particularly in areas of schools, parks or playgrounds..
- **Certain parked, occupied vehicles** may contain one or more persons, especially significant if observed at an unusual hour.
- **Vehicles being loaded with valuables**: Suspicious if parked in front of a closed business or untended residence, even if the vehicle is a legitimate-looking commercial unit—possibly even bearing a sign identifying it as a repair vehicle, moving van, etc.
- **Abandoned vehicle**: Possible stolen car.
- **Vehicle containing weapons**: Almost always suspicious.
- **Other unusual activity involving vehicles**: Persons attempting forcibly to enter a locked vehicle, especially at night or in a parking lot.  
Persons removing mechanical parts or accessories from a vehicle, especially at night in the street or a parking lot  
Persons being forced into vehicles, especially if juveniles or females  
Objects thrown from a vehicle, especially while traveling at high speed.

Suspicious Persons

- **Going door-to-door in residential area**: Especially suspicious if, after a few houses are visited, one or more of the subjects goes into a back or side yard. More suspicious if another remains in the front when this occurs

- **Waiting in front of a house or business**: Particularly suspicious if owners are absent, or—if it’s a business—the establishment is closed.
- **Forcing entrance to or tampering with a residence, vehicle, etc.:** Almost always suspicious. \_.
- **Non-resident going into back or side yard of house**: Almost always suspicious.
- **Person running** especially if something of value is being carried.
- **Exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms**.
- **Carrying property**: Suspicious, depending on the circumstances. For example, if at unusual hours or in an unusual place, and if the property is not wrapped as if just purchased.
- **Much human traffic to and from a certain residence**: Not suspicious unless it occurs on a daily or very regular basis, especially during late or unusual hours.

Situations Involving Property

- **Property in homes, private garages, storage areas, etc.:** Suspicious if accumulations are large or otherwise unusual (such as several TV sets in a garage) and the items are in good condition, but not in use.
- **Property in vehicles**: Not suspicious unless the property is not normally found in vehicles—especially if observed at unusual hours, or if TV sets, electronics, or auto parts are involved.
- **Property carried by persons on foot**: Normally not suspicious unless at an unusual hour or in an unusual place. Especially questionable if the person is running.

- **Property being removed from or being placed into vehicles or buildings**: Not suspicious unless unusual hours or places are involved. For instance, from closed business or residences whose owners are known to be absent.

Other Unusual Situations

- **Continuous “repair” operations at a non-business location**:
- **Open or broken doors or windows**: At closed business or residence whose owners are temporarily absent.
- **Unusual noises, etc.:** Gunshots, screaming, sounds of combat, abnormally barking dogs—



Call the police about all suspicious activity

Do not hesitate to call the police. It is important for the public to feel comfortable when calling the police. If you think you should call the police, then pick up the phone and call 293-7000 (non-emergency) or 911 for a life-threatening emergency or a crime-in-progress. Don’t assume that someone else has called the police. Don’t worry about “bothering” the police and don’t worry about being embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded. It is better to act than to think about what could happen if you didn’t act at all.